

(a) whether the State Government of Sikkim have asked Government to sign a pact with China to allow Indian tourists to travel to China through the recently opened Nathu-La Pass;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent would this help to boost tourism between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Views of PM on terrorism

†1685. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL, AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the views expressed by Prime Minister on the issue of terrorism who was invited specially in the recently held Summit of organization of eight developed countries;

(b) the reaction of the G-8 countries thereon; and

(c) the assurance given to deal with the terrorism in the country along with the cooperation to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Prime Minister expressed the view that terrorism being a principal challenge, it was the duty of every country to ensure that its territory was not used for terrorist purposes and to assist in bringing perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice.

(b) and (c) The G-8, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa, the Chairman of the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Chairman of the African Union and the Heads of International Organizations participating in the Summit adopted, along with India, a Statement expressing their willingness to take all necessary measures to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks in India on 11 July 2006 and other such attacks, as well as those who incited the perpetrators to commit them.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.